Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)   A computer implemented method for identifying aberrant behavior of a financial instrument comprising:

(a)   providing a computer;

(b)   retrieving from a source of market data, closing price, volume and number of transactions conducted for the financial instrument in a selected trading session, wherein the volume and number of transactions are retrieved independently of each other;

(c)   recording in memory accessible by the computer, the closing price, volume and number of transactions conducted for the financial instrument in the selected trading session;

(d)   identifying a plurality of time periods of different sizes, each of said time periods terminating with the trading session of the financial instrument immediately preceding the selected trading session;

(e)   obtaining and providing in memory accessible by the computer, the average and standard deviation of the closing price, volume and number of transactions during each of the time periods, wherein the averages of the volume and number of transactions are obtained independently of each other, and wherein the standard deviations of the volume and the number of transactions are obtained independently of each other;

(f)   determining whether the closing price, differs from the average of the corresponding component during each of the time periods by a selected number of standard deviations and for each case in which such a difference is sufficiently large, recording an associated aberrant flag;

(g)   determining whether the volume and number of transactions are each greater than the average of the corresponding component during each of the time periods by a selected number of standard deviations and for each case in which such a difference is sufficiently large, recording an associated aberrant flag;

(h)   counting the number of aberrant flags; and

(i)   identifying behavior of the financial instrument as aberrant if the number of aberrant flags is greater than zero.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

(j) selecting a threshold value corresponding to an expected total number of aberrant flags;

(k) calculating the difference between the total number of aberrant flags and the threshold value; and

(l) recording an overall financial instrument aberrant flag if the magnitude of the difference in step (k) is sufficiently large.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented)   A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the threshold value corresponds at least in part to the total number of possible aberrant flags that could be recorded in steps (f) and (g).

Claim 4. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the financial instrument is sold on at least one market, the at least one market has market indexes that are analogous to the closing price, the volume and the number of transactions, and wherein the selected number of standard deviations depends at least in part on standard deviations of the market indexes for the time periods.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (g), for each time period, an aberrant flag is recorded if both the difference between the number of transactions for the selected trading session and the average number of transactions is sufficiently large and the number of transactions for the selected trading session is greater than the average numbers of transactions.

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Claim 6. (Previously Presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the parameters is the volume, and wherein in step (g), for each time period, an aberrant flag is recorded if both the differences between the volume for the selected trading session and the average volume is sufficiently large, and the volume for the selected trading session is greater than the average volume.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

(m) calculating an average number of aberrant flags for the financial instrument over a selected number of trading sessions immediately prior to the selected trading session; and

(n) comparing the number of aberrant flags in the selected trading session with the average number of aberrant flags; and

(o) identifying the existence of an overall financial instrument aberration if the comparison in step (n) results in a difference above a threshold value.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended)   A computer implemented method for identifying aberrant behavior of a financial instrument comprising:

(a) providing a computer;

(b) retrieving from a source of market data, the values of a plurality of parameters, said parameters including the number of transactions and at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of closing price and volume, for the financial instrument in a selected trading session, wherein the values of the parameters are retrieved independently of each other;

(c) recording in memory accessible by the computer, the values of the parameters;

(d) identifying a plurality of time periods of different sizes, each of said time periods terminating with the trading session of the financial instrument immediately preceding the selected trading session;

(e) <u>obtaining and</u> providing in memory accessible by the computer, average values of the parameters for the time periods, <u>wherein the average values of the parameters are obtained independently of each other</u>;

(f) providing in memory accessible by the computer, the differences between the values of the parameters during the selected trading session and the average values of the parameters; and

(g) identifying the differences as being aberrant depending at least in part on the magnitude of the differences.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein step (g) includes:

(h) selecting a set of expected variations for the values of the parameters; and

(i) determining whether the differences exceed the expected variations.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the expected variations are selected depending on the averages and standard deviations of the values of the parameters over the time periods.

Claim 11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one time period is at most 10 days long and at least one other time period is at least one year long.

Claim 12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising reporting the presence of any differences that are aberrant.

Claim 13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising counting a total number of differences that are aberrant, and reporting the total number of differences that are aberrant.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

(j) counting a total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session;

(k) selecting a threshold value corresponding to an expected total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session;

(l) calculating the difference between the total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session and the threshold value; and

(m) identifying the behaviour of the financial instrument as being aberrant if the comparison in step (l) results in a difference above the threshold value.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the threshold value corresponds at least in part to the total number of differences calculated in step (f).

Claim 16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the financial instrument is sold on at least one market, the at least one market has market indexes that are analogous to the parameters, and wherein the expected variations correspond at least in part to standard deviations of the market indexes for the time periods.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein in step (g), the differences between the number of transactions for the selected trading session and the average values for the number of transactions are identified as being aberrant depending at least in part on whether or not the number of transactions for the selected trading session is greater than the average number of transactions.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein one of the parameters is the volume, and wherein in step (g), the differences between the volume for the selected trading session and the average values for the volume are identified as being aberrant depending on the magnitude of the differences, and depending on whether or not the volume for the selected trading session is greater than the average volume.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

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(n) counting a total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session;

(o) providing in memory accessible by the computer, an average total number of differences that are aberrant for the financial instrument over a selected number of trading sessions immediately prior to the selected trading session; and

(p) providing in memory accessible by the computer, the difference between the total number of differences that are aberrant and the average total number of differences that are aberrant; and

(q) identifying if the financial instrument is aberrant exists depending on the magnitude of the difference calculated in step (p).

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the parameters includes the number of transactions, the closing price and the volume for the financial instrument in a selected trading session.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for identifying aberrant behavior of a financial instrument comprising:

(a) providing a computer;

(b) retrieving from a source of market data, the values of a plurality of parameters, the parameters including the number of transactions, the closing price and the volume, for the financial instrument in a selected trading session, wherein the volume and number of transactions are retrieved independently of each other;

(c) recording in memory accessible by the computer, the values of the parameters;

(d) identifying a plurality of time periods of different sizes, each of said time periods terminating with the trading session of the financial instrument immediately preceding the selected trading session;

(e) obtaining and providing in memory accessible by the computer averages values and standard deviations of the parameters for the time periods, wherein the averages of the volume and number of transactions are obtained independently of each

other, and the standard deviations of the volume and number of transactions are obtained independently of each other;

(f) providing in memory accessible by the computer the differences between the values of the parameters during the selected trading session and the average values of the parameters;

(g) selecting a set of expected variations for the values of the parameters during the selected trading session, wherein the expected variations are selected depending on the averages and standard deviations of the parameters over the time periods;

(h) determining whether the differences in closing price exceed the expected variations;

(i) identifying any differences in closing price that exceed the expected variations as being aberrant;

(j) determining whether the volume and number of transactions are greater than the average volume and number of transactions by more than the expected variations;

(k) identifying any cases where the volume is greater than the average volume and number of transactions by more than the expected variations as being aberrant;

(l) identifying any cases where the number of transactions is greater than the average volume and number of transactions by more than the expected variations as being aberrant;

(m) counting the total number of differences that are aberrant;

(n) selecting a threshold value corresponding to an expected total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session;

(o) providing in memory accessible by the computer the difference between the total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session and the threshold value; and

(p) reporting whether an overall financial instrument aberration exists depending on the magnitude of the difference in step (o).